

March 21, 2003

Legal Notice

Notice of Application for Operating Permit (pursuant to the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, Section 82-4-353 (1), MCA.

Plum Creek Timberlands, L.P. (Plum Creek) filed an application on January 24, 2003 for an Operating Permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Environmental Management Bureau in Helena. Plum Creek has seen a dramatic increase in the number of requests for contracts from small and large operators on its lands in western Montana for rock products. These contractors would like to remove decorative rock, building stone, rip rap, aggregates, and other products produced by typical quarrying activities.

Currently these operations are regulated under a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) produced by the DEQ in 1999. However, many of these operations may eventually exceed the limits imposed in that EA over the life of the operations. Plum Creek is proposing to cover all of these operations and future operations on its 1.4 million acres in western Montana under one operating permit for ease of administration by Plum Creek as well as DEQ. Plum Creek would bond the operations and also bond the operators to ensure reclamation after completion of the quarrying activities.

All of the operations would be on private lands owned by Plum Creek in Missoula, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Granite, Mineral, Ravalli, Lake, Flathead, Sanders, and Lincoln counties.

The applicant seeks approval of its application for a 20 year operating permit that would cover up to total of 3189 permit acres. Plum Creek has estimated that up to 517 acres of that permitted land could be disturbed in the next five years on a maximum number of 105 sites. Currently, there are 41 operations that have disturbed 211 acres of Plum Creek lands.

Reclamation plans call for the reclamation of all the surface disturbances.

Copies of the application can be reviewed by the public at DEQ offices at 1520 E. 6th Ave., in Helena, MT. DEQ plans to complete a Supplemental EA on the proposed operating permit. Please submit comments or questions on the proposal by May 15, 2003. For information on the project and to submit comments on the proposal, contact:

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